LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-10. (Canceled)

11. (New) A connectable bucket tappet for use in a valve drive of an internal combustion engine, the tappet comprising:

a ring shaped section having an outer skirt for enabling oscillatory mounting of the skirt in a holder of the engine; the ring shaped section having a bore within the ring shaped section;

a circular section accommodated in the bore of the ring shaped section in a manner such that the circular section is movable axially with respect to the ring shaped section to axial displacement positions, and the ring shaped section and the circular section having at least one axial displacement position in relation to each other at which the ring shaped section and the circular section may be coupled to each other;

a slider operable between positions for coupling the ring shaped section and the circular section and for uncoupling those sections, the slider being shaped to run in the circular section while in the uncoupled state and the slider being displaceable from the circular section in a direction which moves the slider into the ring shaped section in which the slider couples the ring shaped section and the circular section;

both of the ring shaped section and the circular section having a base; a first holder for the slider in the region of the base of the circular section, a second holder for the slider in the region of the base of the ring shaped section, wherein the slider is shaped and moveable so that in an uncoupled state, the slider is out of the second holder in the ring shaped section but in a coupled condition, the slider is moved to be in both the first holder in the circular section and the second holder in the ring shaped section for coupling the sections;

the circular section having an outer surface, a compression spring enclosing the outer surface,

the compression spring having a first end which acts against the base of the ring shaped section and having a second end which acts against a portion of the circular section remote from the base thereof;

the second holder of the ring shaped section is a separate component which extends only over a small part of the annular shape of the ring shaped section, and the second holder has an inner edge at the outer surface of the circular section;

the second holder being enclosed at least sectionally by the compression spring located radially outside of the component and the axial direction of the bucket tappet.

12. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 11, wherein the slider is displaceable with respect to the central section radially thereof or in the manner of a secant.

13. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 11, wherein the second holder of the ring shaped section is comprised of a separate sleeve component which is open for receiving the slider therein and the sleeve component is enclosed at least sectionally by the compression spring radially on the outside of the component.

14. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 13, wherein the slider is provided in the circular section and has a piston geometry and the sleeve component of the ring shaped section is in the form of a thin walled pot for receiving the slider and is opposite the slider.

15. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 14, where there is one slider.

16. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 15, wherein the base of the ring shaped section has a radially inner edge region and has an annular extension extending in the axial direction of the

bucket tappet and away from the base and defining the bore of the ring shaped section in which the circular section is disposed, the annular extension extending over a portion of the height of the bucket tappet and the annular extension also being shaped for accommodating the sleeve component of the second holder.

17. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 11, wherein the second holder has a base side toward the base of the ring section and has a surface section at the base side, an overhang reaching over the sleeve component of the second holder and attached to the circular section and positioned for forming an axial stop for the ring shaped section with respect to the circular section(?)

18. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 11, wherein the circular section has an outer surface with a region thereof in a region of the sleeve component of the second holder, the outer surface includes a flat, and the sleeve component of the second holder having an inner edge which bears on the flat.

19. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 11, further comprising a helical spring enclosing the slider and loading the slider in the uncoupling direction.

20. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 19, further comprising a device in the tappet for loading the slider in the coupling direction against the force of the helical spring.

21. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 11, wherein the component of the second holder is comprised of a lightweight structural material.

22. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 11, wherein a support for the first end of the compression spring against the base of the ring shaped section comprises a thin walled annular part;

diametrically opposite, thin-walled radial webs positioned for the annular part to bear thereagainst.

23. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 22, wherein the radial webs are diametrically opposite and are also offset by approximately 90° in the circumferential direction with respect to the component of the second holder originating from the base of the ring shaped section.

24. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 23, further comprising first and second chambers defined in the annular region between the ring shaped section and the circular section, each chamber being shaped as a respective circular segment, and at least one of the chambers being adapted for containing hydraulic fluid.

25. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 24, wherein the at least one chamber is in connection with the first holder for the slider so that the slider is loaded with hydraulic pressure in the at least one chamber.

26. (New) The bucket tappet of claim 11, further comprising a hydraulic play compensating element in the circular section.